

Application No. 10/518,327
Amendment Dated September 3, 2009
Response to Office Action Dated March 3, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Method for diagnosing malfunctions occurring on an automatic terminal type apparatus for delivering goods or services against payment, received at one of at least two different ~~[[a]]~~ means of payment, said method for diagnosing malfunctions comprising the steps of:

for each means of payment, calculating the value of at least one respective data item representative of an operation of said apparatus, wherein said at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is an amount of time that has elapsed since a latest payment made with the means of payment and the time that is intended to elapse as long as no other payment is made with the means of payment;

comparing ~~said~~ each calculated value to a respective predetermined reference value;
and

deducing the occurrence of a malfunction in the event one of the ~~said~~ calculated values is superior to its ~~said~~ predetermined reference value.

2. (withdrawn) Method according to claim 1, wherein said data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is representative of the frequency of payments made at said apparatus.

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said reference value is representative of the average of values taken by said data item representative of the operation of the apparatus.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said reference value depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus concerned.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein predetermined difference depends at least on a parameter such as the time of day or the apparatus concerned.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operations of calculating a data item representative of the operation of said apparatus and comparing the calculated value and a predetermined reference value are affected directly by said apparatus.

9. (withdrawn) Method according to claim 1, wherein the operations of calculating a data item representative of the operation of said apparatus and comparing the calculated value and a predetermined reference value are partly or completely effected by a server adapted to communicate with said apparatus.

10. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a terminal for paying for parking spaces, such as a parking voucher dispenser or a parking meter.

11. (previously presented) An apparatus for delivering goods or services against payment, of the automatic type, employing the method for diagnosing malfunctions as set forth in claim 1, said apparatus comprising:

- a means of payment;

- a means for calculating the value of at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus, where said at least one data item representative of the operation of said apparatus is the time that has elapsed since a latest payment made with the means of payment, and will elapse as long as no other payment is made with the means of payment;

- a means of comparing said calculated value to a reference value; and

- a means for detecting the occurrence of a malfunction in the event said calculated value is superior to the reference value.

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12. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a terminal; for paying for parking spaces.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said apparatus is either one of a parking voucher dispenser or a parking meter.

14. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein each reference value is obtained by direct statistical analysis of observed raw data of several automatic terminal type apparatuses including said terminal type apparatus.